



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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Testimony of Senator Lena C. Taylor

SB 522—Tuberculocidal Disinfectants

Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs

March 8, 2012

Mr. Chairman and members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for Senate Bill 522. This is a bipartisan effort for which I am happy to join with Representative Jeff Stone. **This bill will prevent an unnecessary financial burden on barbering or cosmetology establishments and I urge you to pass it.**

The increased desire for tuberculocidal disinfectants was created in the early 1980's when the fear of diseases such as HIV was rampant. Tuberculosis only spreads through respiratory contact. There is no documentation showing it is spread through blood or nonporous surfaces; therefore requiring a tuberculocidal disinfectant rather than a standard EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant is redundant. Tuberculocidal disinfectants add unnecessary financial burden on business owners by increasing the amount of money spent on disinfectants as well as potentially destroying the disinfected tools.

Tuberculocidal disinfectants DO NOT prevent tuberculosis (TB) from spreading in barber and cosmetology settings. Salons use two types of disinfectants: EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants and a tuberculocidal (phenolic) disinfectant. The ONLY difference between the two in terms of disinfectants is the latter kills the mycobacterium that causes tuberculosis on non-porous surfaces. EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants are just as effective against HIV and other diseases that barbering and cosmetology establishments need to worry about. Ironically, tuberculosis is not spread through surface contact—it is an airborne pathogen. Because tuberculocidal disinfectants have no affect on the spread of TB and have no more benefits than the EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants, its use should not be mandated in barber and cosmetology establishments by the state of Wisconsin.

I asked for an expert opinion on this matter. Leslie Roste, a Registered Nurse and the National Director for Consumer Research at King Research in Milwaukee, says that the use of tuberculocidal disinfectants in barber and cosmetology setting is “absolutely unnecessary and the risks far outweigh the benefits.” “Any EPA hospital-grade disinfectant kills EVERY pathogen in a salon when done correctly.”

Continued use of tuberculocidals is an unnecessary cost to business. The cost of the tuberculocidal product can be over 4 times as expensive as its EPA-registered hospital grade non-tuberculocidal equivalent. Also, if instruments are left in a tuberculocidal solution longer than the 10 minute contact time, the phenol-based disinfectant can be very damaging to plastics and even metals. EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants are just as effective and do not cause this damage

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that mandating the use of tuberculocidal disinfectants in barbering or cosmetology establishments is unnecessary and places an unjustified burden on Wisconsin business owners. I urge this committee to unanimously support this bill and move it forward for floor action as soon as possible.

Thank you.